

Introduced by Senator Figueroa

January 4, 2006

An act relating to health care insurance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1118, as introduced, Figueroa. Health Care Insurance for All Children Act.

Existing law establishes programs to provide health care benefits to children, including the Healthy Families Program and the Medi-Cal program.

This bill would express the Legislature's intent to enact legislation to provide access to affordable health care insurance to all uninsured children in California, and to provide a funding mechanism for that insurance.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. It is the Legislature's intent to create a funding
- 2 mechanism for health care insurance for all California children.
- 3 SEC. 2. This act shall be cited as the Health Care Insurance
- 4 for All Children Act.
- 5 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 6 following:
- 7 (a) For the economic and social benefit of all residents of the
- 8 state, it is important to enable all children of this state to access
- 9 affordable health insurance that offers comprehensive coverage
- 10 and emphasizes preventive health care.

1 (b) Many children in working families, including many
2 families whose family income ranges between forty thousand
3 dollars (\$40,000) and eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000), are
4 uninsured.

5 (c) Approximately 800,000 children in California are
6 uninsured.

7 (d) Numerous studies, including the Institute of Medicine's
8 report, "Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care,"
9 demonstrate that lack of insurance negatively affects health
10 status.

11 (e) Access to health care is a key component for a child's
12 healthy development and successful education.

13 (f) The effects of lack of insurance also negatively impact
14 those who are insured because the cost of paying for care for the
15 uninsured is often shifted to those who have insurance in the
16 form of higher health insurance premiums.

17 (g) It is therefore the Legislature's intent to enact legislation to
18 provide access to affordable health insurance to all uninsured
19 children in California.